



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/937,665	02/20/2002	Toni M. Kutchan	J & J-1825	3757

27777 7590 08/23/2005

PHILIP S. JOHNSON  
JOHNSON & JOHNSON  
ONE JOHNSON & JOHNSON PLAZA  
NEW BRUNSWICK, NJ 08933-7003

EXAMINER

FOX, DAVID T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1638

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/937,665

Applicant(s)

KUTCHAN ET AL.

Examiner

David T. Fox

Art Unit

1638

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ONE(1) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 June 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-62 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

In view of Applicant's Response of 09 June 2005, the restriction requirement of 13 May 2005 is hereby VACATED in view of the following restriction requirement.

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

Group I, claim(s) 1-19, 43-48 and 59-62, drawn to a first product, a polynucleotide encoding a codeinone reductase enzyme, and a method of using said polynucleotide.

Group II, claim(s) 20-28, drawn to a second product, an isolated enzyme.

Group III, claim(s) 29-51, drawn to a third product, a transformed cell, callus or plant, and a method of making said plant.

Group IV, claim(s) 52-53, drawn to a fourth product, straw.

Group V, claim(s) 54-55, drawn to a fifth product, an isolated alkaloid.

Group VI, claim(s) 56 and 58, drawn to a third method, a method of making an alkaloid.

Group VII, claim(s) 57-58, drawn to a fourth method, a second method of making an alkaloid.

The inventions listed as Groups I-VII do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features for the following reasons:

According to PCT Rule 13.2, the groups lack unity of invention with one another when they do not share all the special or corresponding technical features. In this case, unity of invention is broken by differences in specific nucleotide and amino acid structures among the Markush claims, as well as by differences in group categories.

Applicants are reminded that nucleotide sequences encoding different proteins are structurally distinct chemical compounds and are unrelated to one another. These sequences are thus deemed to normally constitute independent and distinct inventions within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. 121. Absent evidence to the contrary, each such nucleotide sequence is presumed to represent an independent and distinct invention, subject to a restriction requirement pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 CFR 1.141 et seq.

Upon election of a Group above, Applicant is additionally required to select a single nucleotide sequence from Figures 10-15 encoding a single corresponding amino acid sequence from Figures 3-4 for said Group. This requirement is not to be construed as a requirement for an election of species, since each nucleotide and amino acid sequence is not a member of single genus of invention, but constitutes an independent and patentably distinct invention.

Applicant is further reminded that the specification and claims should be amended to recite the appropriate sequence identifier corresponding to each sequence, per 37 CFR 1.821(d).

Furthermore, the groups lack unity because they are not united by a single special technical feature. The groups are united by the technical features of isolated enzymes involved in the biosynthesis of pharmaceutically active alkaloids, including codeinone reductase protein sequences which are involved in the biosynthesis of codeine; or host transformation with isolated nucleotide sequences encoding an enzyme involved in the biosynthesis of a pharmaceutically active alkaloid, including host transformation with polynucleotides encoding codeinone reductase.

However, these concepts are not special because they do not constitute an advance over the prior art. Lenz et al (submitted by Applicant) teach isolated codeinone reductase enzyme sequences (see, e.g., page 132, Abstract). Yun et al teach plant transformation with an isolated nucleotide sequence encoding an enzyme involved in the production of the pharmaceutically active alkaloid of scopolamine (see, e.g., page 11799, Abstract).

In addition, the claimed isolated polynucleotides, isolated proteins, living organisms, dried straw, and isolated alkaloids are multiple products which do not share a common structure and function.

Moreover, the claimed combinations of inventions do not comply with those set forth in MPEP 1850, namely

- 1) A product and process of manufacture of said product.
- 2) A product and process of use of said product.
- 3) A product, process of its manufacture, and process of its use.
- 4) A process and apparatus to carry out said process.
- 5) A product, process of its manufacture, and apparatus for carrying out the process.

The instantly claimed multiple products and multiple methods of making a product do not comply with the permitted categories of inventions.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 1638

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David T. Fox whose telephone number is 571-272-0795. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 10:30AM to 7:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Jones, can be reached on 571-272-0745. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

August 17, 2005

DAVID T. FOX  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
GROUP 180-1638

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David T. Fox", with a large, stylized flourish at the end.